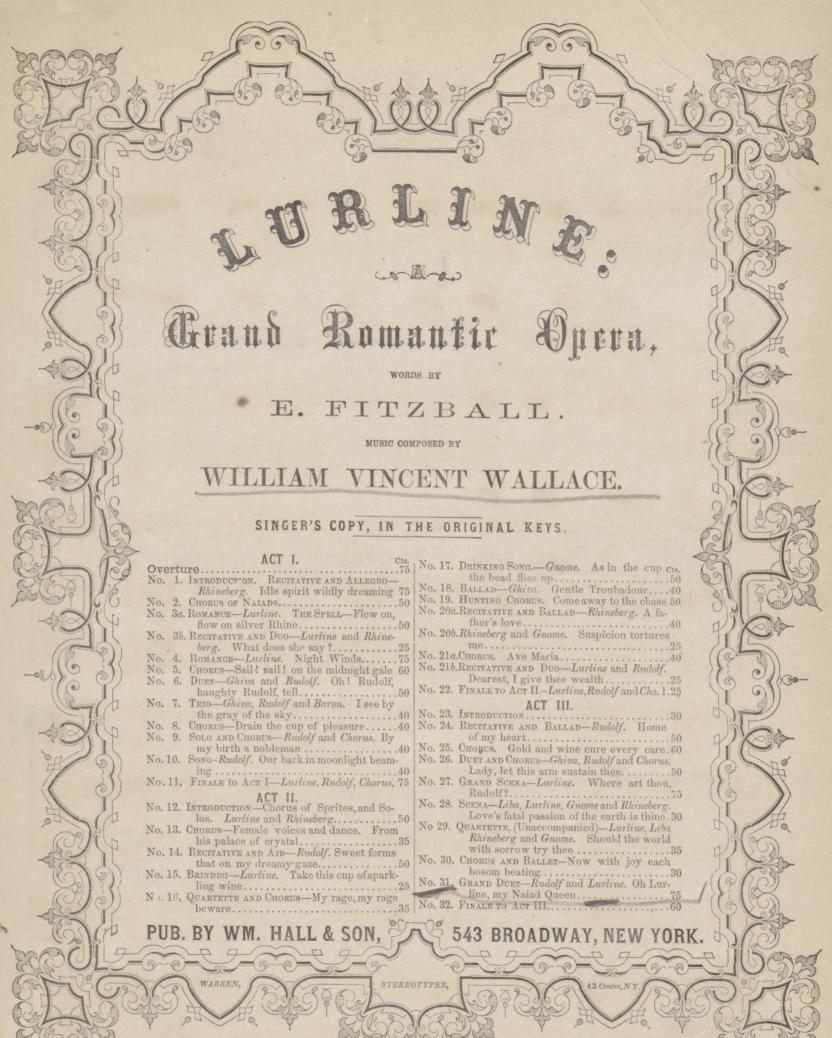
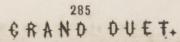
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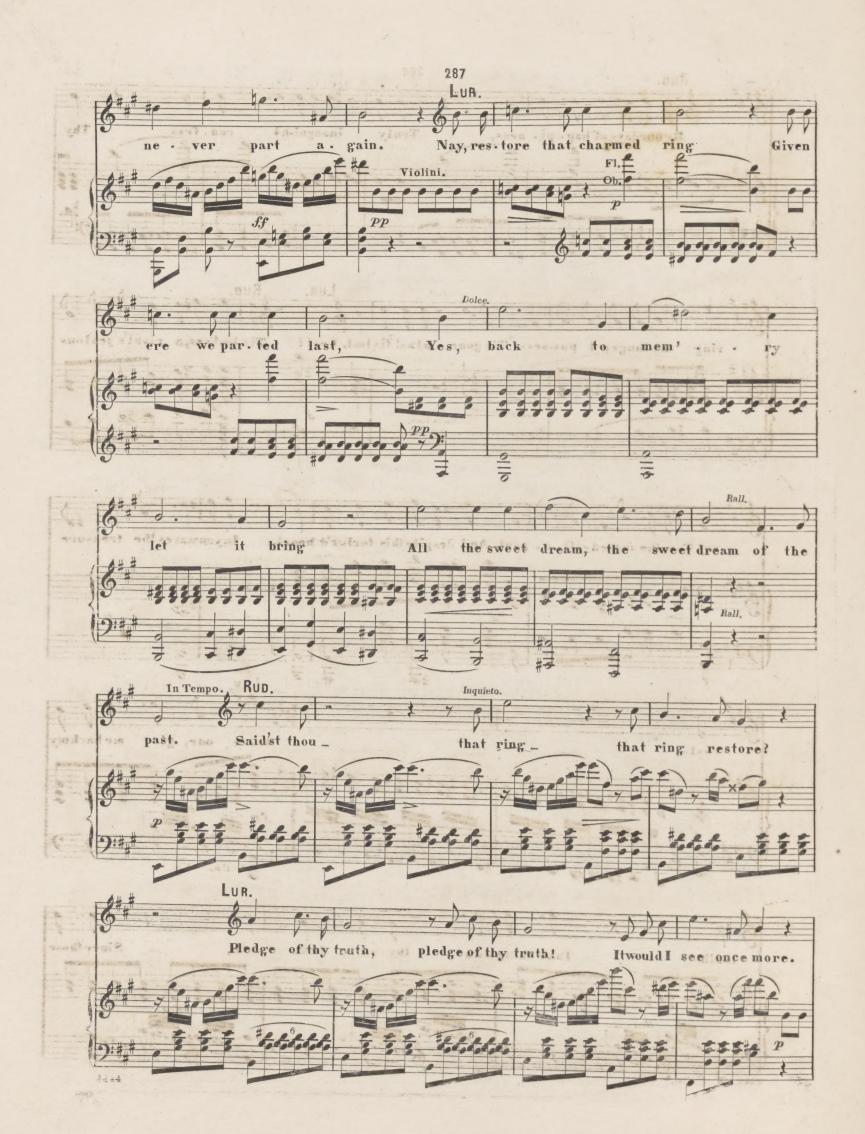
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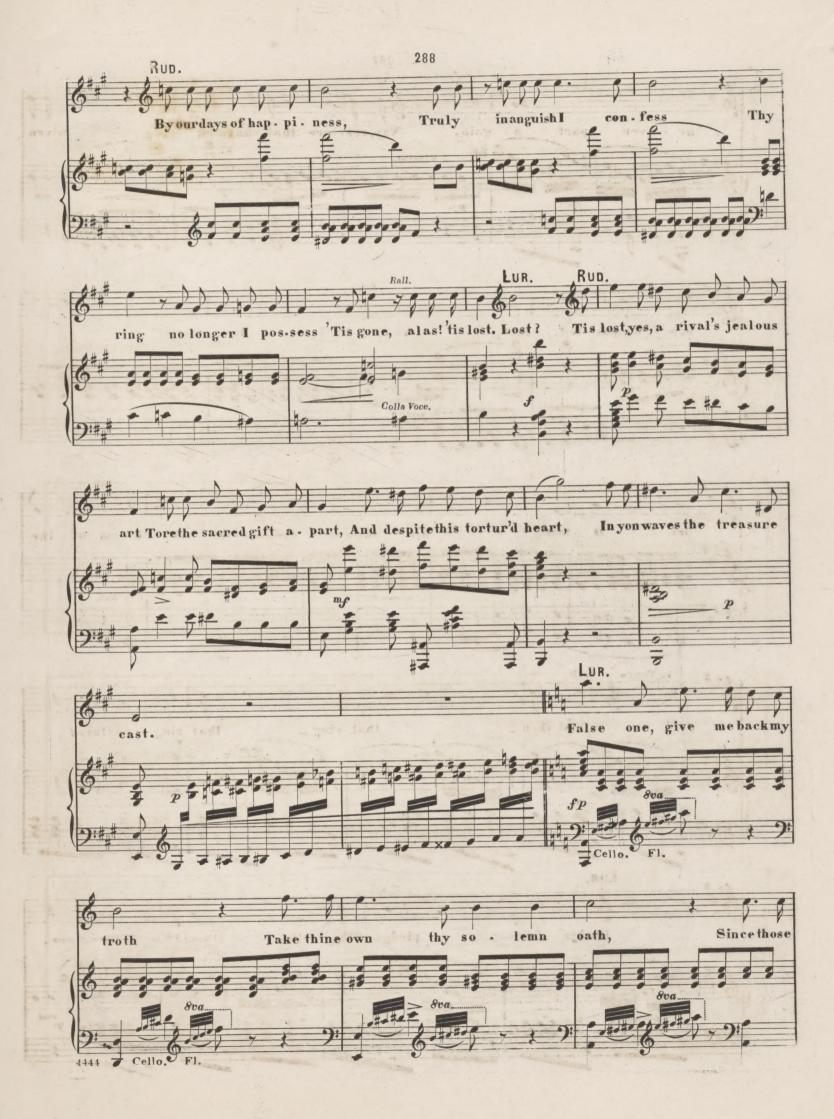






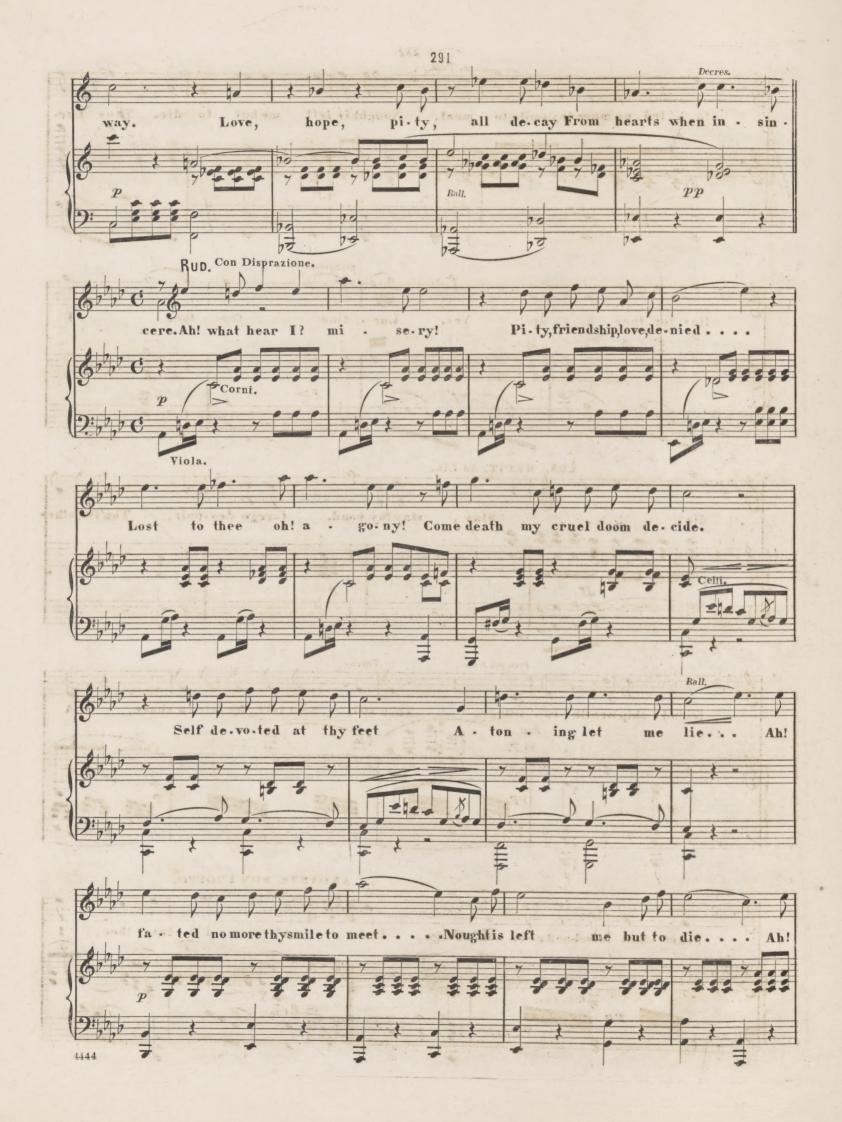




























# GRAND ROMANTIC OPERA,

## By WM. VINCENT WALLACE.

### Act I.

COUNT RUDOLPH, an extravagant young nobleman, residing in an antique castle on the banks of the Rhine, having dissipated his patrimony among his graceless followers, proposes marriage with Ghiva, the daughter of a neighboring Baron, thinking thereby to replenish his coffers. The young lady's father, however, is nearly as poor as the Count, and hopes that the union between Ghiva and this young nobleman will the better enable him to support his own estate. An explanation soon puts an end to the treaty, and the hand of the suitor is rejected.

Previous to this rupture, LURLINE, the Nymph of the Rhine, who, by her enchanted harp and song, lures vessels to destruction in the whirlpool of the river, has seen Count Rudolph in his bark, and fallen desperately in love with him. Accordingly she presents herself to the Count at a wild banquet, (the last that he and his companions have determined to hold in the old castle), and surrounding him by spells, places a magic ring on his finger, and disappears. On recovering his reason, the count has become enamored of the beautiful Water Queen; the notes of her bewildering voice and harp attract him to the Rhine; he embarks, despite all interference, is engulfed, and supposed to perish.

### ACT II.

Opens in the coral cave, under the waters, inhabited by Lurline and her nymphs, in which, by virtue of the talismanic ring, Rudolph is enabled to exist. His followers are seen in a boat, singing a requiem for the loss of their chief, by which he is so affected, that he urgently desires to return to them for a short time. Lurline consents to his departure for three days, and agrees to await his return on the summit of the Lurlei Berg, at the rising of the moon on the third evening. To augment his happiness, she prevails on her father, the Rhine King, to grant him a cargo of wealth, with which he embarks in a fairy skiff, leaving Lurline in dread of the nonfulfillment of his promise.

#### ACT III.

On returning to his companions Rudolph discloses to them, and to the Baron and his daughter, the secret of his almost inexhaustible wealth. This produces a great change in the disposition of the latter. The Baron once more courts the Count's alliance, while Ghiva, finding his heart engaged to Lurline, and fearing to lose her now wealthy former suitor, contrives to steal Lurline's enchanted ring from his finger, and cast it into the Rhine.

In the mean time, Lurline, inconsolable in the absence of the young Count, sits singing her laments to the chords of her harp, nightly, on the edge of the Lurlei Berg, where a Gnome, in the service of the Rhine King, brings her the plighted ring, in token of her lover's infidelity. Distracted with grief, Lurline resolves to upbraid him for his perfidy, and visit him with her vengeance.

The old mansion on the Rhine is now the scene of great festivity; but in this gay and gorgeous revel the rich Count is the least happy of his numerous and joyous guests. His heart is away on the Lurlei Berg, with his lovely and faithful Lurline, but he dares not present himself before her without his lost ring. Lurline appears to him when alone, and demands the ring. A scene of reproach here takes place, ending by her denouncing the treachery of the companions in whom he most confides. They, grown envious of Rudolphi's wealth, had plotted to destroy him, and to plunder the castle. Their plan is overheard and hastily communicated to the Count by the ever-listening Ghiva and her Father, who importune him to instant flight. The assassins are at hand—Rudolph prefers death at the feet of Lurline. The assassins approach, when Lurline's affection returning in full force, she seizes her harp, and by the spell of music, causes their destruction, and effects the preservation of her penitent lover.